

## REMARKS

In a Restriction Requirement dated June 8, 2004, restriction to one of the following groups of inventions was requested:

Group I, claims 1-29 and 64

Group II, claim 30

Group III, claims 31-35

Group IV, claims 36-40

Group V, claims 41-47 and 65

Group VI, claims 48-54

Group VII, claims 55-57 and 59

Group VIII, claims 55 and 58

Group IX, claims 60 and 62

Group X, claims 61 and 63.

In response the Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I claims 1-29 and 64 with traverse. The Applicants wish to highlight the fact that a lack of unity of invention was not raised during examination of the international application. While the Applicants acknowledge that under 35 USC §372 the unity of invention may be reexamined during the national stage proceeding, however, it is believe that searching an examination of Groups III-V will not impose a substantial burden on the examiner. The inventions as claimed in Groups III, IV, and V are related in that they modify the form of the substrate. In Group III claims are directed to a substrate in the form of a fiber; in Group IV claims are directed to a substrate in the form of a sheet or film; and in Group V the claims are directed to a substrate in the form of an assembly of fibers. Each of the claims in these different groups depends from claim 1.

Until a specific rejection is issued, the Applicants do not wish at this time to comment on the allegations that claim 1 is anticipated by either Sefton (US 6,261,585) or Arnold (US 5,759,570). It is believed any rejections issuing because of these references may be overcome without having to rely on the physical form of the substrate. Therefore, to maintain a restriction requirement between such related inventions is to elevate form over function. Therefore the Applicants respectfully request that Groups I, III, IV and V be examined together at this time.

Claims 30, and 48-63 have been canceled. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in a continuing application.

A species restriction (lack of unity of invention) was also required to one of the following species:

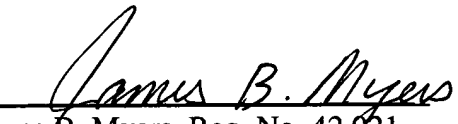
- a) the polysaccharides of claim 18;
- b) the cell adhesion proteins of claim 28; and
- c) the cell adhesion protein or a blood plasma component in claim 55.

Claims 18 and 28 were found to be generic.

The Applicants elect to prosecute the species (a) polysaccharides. It should be noted that claim 1 is generic at least for the polysaccharide and the cell adhesion protein species.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration leading to allowance of this application. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any questions about this submission or other matters, which may be addressed in that fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

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